

REMARKS

Claims 20-151 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 35, 37, 41, 43, 51, 63, 73, 78, 80, 85, 100, 110, 115, 126, 130 (second occurrence), 137, and 149 are amended and claims 42, 44, 45, 75, 79, 81, 82, 86-88, and 122-125 are deleted. Accordingly, claims 20-41, 43, 46-74, 76-78, 80, 83-85, 89-121, and 126-151 are currently under consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims currently under consideration are allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 51, 130 (second occurrence), 132-134 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 51 and 130 (second occurrence) have been amended to clarify the numbering of the claims. These claims have been amended to correct for informalities and not to overcome a rejection based on cited references.

Applicants respectfully request that the above-cited rejection under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 35-40 stand allowed. Claims 45, 63-72, 75, 82, 88, 100-109, 125, 137-146, 149 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed below, claims have been amended to include limitations related to allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully request that the above cited objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103

Claims 41-44, 48-50, 52-60, 76-81, 85-87, 89-97, 110-111, 113-119, 122-124, 126-130 (first occurrence), 147-148, 150-151 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by

O'Hagan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,406). Claims 46-47, 59, 61-62, 83, 84, 98-99, 120-121 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over O-Hagan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,406).

Claim 41 has been amended to include limitations from previous claim 45, which contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 41 is allowable. Because they depend directly or indirectly from claim 41, claims 43 and 46-62 are likewise allowable.

Claim 63, which contains allowable subject matter, has been amended to include limitations from its previous base claim. Therefore, claim 63 is allowable. Because they depend directly or indirectly from claim 63, claims 64-72 are likewise allowable.

Claim 73 has been amended to include limitations from previous claim 75, which contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 73 is allowable. Because they depend directly or indirectly from claim 73, claims 74, 76, and 77 are likewise allowable.

Claim 78 has been amended to include limitations from previous claim 82, which contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 78 is allowable. Because they depend directly or indirectly from claim 78, claims 80, 83, and 84 are likewise allowable.

Claim 85 has been amended to include limitations from previous claim 88, which contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 85 is allowable. Because they depend directly or indirectly from claim 85, claims 89-99 are likewise allowable.

Claim 100, which contains allowable subject matter, has been amended to include limitations from its previous base claim. Therefore, claim 100 is allowable. Because they depend directly or indirectly from claim 100, claims 101-114 are likewise allowable.

Claim 115 has been amended to include limitations from previous claim 125, which contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 115 is allowable. Because they depend directly or indirectly from claim 115, claims 116-121, and 126-136 are likewise allowable.

Claim 137, which contains allowable subject matter, has been amended to include limitations from its previous base claim. Therefore, claim 137 is allowable. Because they depend directly or indirectly from claim 137, claims 138-148 are likewise allowable.

Claim 149, which contains allowable subject matter, has been amended to include limitations from its previous base claim. Therefore, claim 149 is allowable. Because they depend directly or indirectly from claim 149, claims 150 and 151 are likewise allowable.

Applicants submit that the claims as amended are distinguishable over the cited references and all references of record. Applicants respectfully request that the above-cited rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under Doctrine of Double Patenting.

Claims 20-34 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,425,525 to Swaminathan et al.

A terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.321(c). Applicants respectfully request that the above-cited rejection under the doctrine of double patenting be withdrawn.

Corrections for Informalities.

Claims 35 and 37 have been amended to correct for informalities and not to overcome a rejection based on cited references.

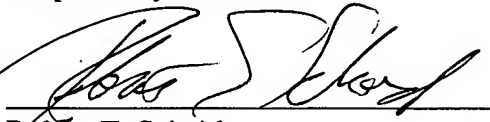
CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If it is determined that a telephone conference would be helpful in advancing this case to an allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 426882003401. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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